

SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS
by L. K. Watson

SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS support the AERCO FD68 interface and have several features that will make this interface much more versatile.

SPEC-DOS emulates the Spectrum computer and still allows the AERCO interface to work normally. TX-DOS works with the normal Timex computer and has similar new features not found in the AERCO disk driver roms. The current AERCO version 9 rom extensions are allowed in both SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS except for .BUT, .LRO, and .ARO. TX-DOS will allow .ARO files to be loaded and executed but they cannot be saved to disk.

Items marked with "*" are features of SPEC-DOS.

Items marked with "***" are features of TX-DOS.

Instructions for SPEC-DOS and TXDOS

- * ** A full CATALOG is now available. The start address or line number, total length and program length (basic files) or horizontal select register value (HSR - binary files only) are displayed when doing a full CATALOG. A full CATALOG is done as follows:

CAT "@",

- * ** Another CATALOG is available to give the start, length and DATE STAMP. It is done like:

CAT "#",

As you can see from the above examples, the normal AERCO disk drive syntax is used with SPEC-DOS as well as with TX-DOS. Auto starting .BAS files are possible with SPEC-DOS and .BIN files can be saved as well.

You can change the maximum directory entries to 31, 63, or 95.

With SPEC-DOS only, the different Timex display modes are supported but only to the extent of changing the start of BASIC to address 31510 and to configure the computer's display for the type of video mode selected. These modes will require user supplied software to realize the full potential of the Timex display.

- * To access video display MODE 1, do NEW 1.
- * Likewise, for video display MODE 2, do NEW 2.
- * To get both display files on the screen at the same time for 64 or more columns per line, do NEW 3. Again, you will need your own software to make the computer print to the screen in 64 columns. The Spectrum system will only print to the primary display file.
- * To return back to the normal 32 column mode and restore the start of BASIC to address 23755, do NEW 255.

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One of the best features of SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS is the use of HDOS V1. Dave Hill is responsible for this great improvement to the normal AERCO V9 operating system and now it has been incorporated into SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS. HDOS features are:

- * ** Occupies NO user RAM
- * ** Date Stamp Files
- * ** Copy Individual Files
- * ** Catalog Disk And Display Only File Types You Specify
- * ** Rename Files
- * ** Format Disk For All 95 Entries (79 on Double Sided and Double Density)
- * ** Change Number Of Directory Entries (Changed From HDOS)
- * ** When MOVEing a File To Disk, If The File Already Exists, Your Permission Will Be Required To Overwrite it

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HDOS V1 (as used in SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS)

- * ** When SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS are initialized, you are asked to enter todays date. If you respond "Y" and enter the date, all subsequent files will be written to disk with a date stamp. Use CAT "#", to read the date stamp.

If you have initialized SPEC-DOS without setting the date, you still have the opportunity to provide the DATE STAMP by doing the following:

- * NEW 8 (rhymes with DATE)
This will jump to the DATE STAMP routine and allow a DATE STAMP or change an existing one.

- * ** Due the Date Stamp, file size is limited to 46080 bytes.

- * ** CAT ".ext", - Display Directory for all files matching the specified extension type.

- * ** COPY individual files with:

- * ** MOVE "destination drive:=source drive:file name.ext",
e.g. MOVE "B:=A:BOOT.BAS",

This will copy onto drive B:, the program from drive A: named "BOOT.BAS".

- * ** A file can be renamed by putting the new name (without extension) followed by "=" and then the old name.

e.g. MOVE "new name=old name.ext",

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* ** If a file already exists when MOVEing a file, the computer will alert and ask you for permission to overwrite with three beeps and a border color change to red. When you press Y or N, your choice will be confirmed with three more beeps.

The HDOS NEW now works in the following manner:

* ** A NEW command followed by the size of directory will limit the directory size printed to the screen.

* ** Examples: NEW 31
* ** NEW 63
* ** NEW 95 (will give 79 max on DS/DD)

* NEW 4 will exit from the SPEC-DOS mode to TIMEX.

* ** NEW or NEW 0 will initialize the computer normally.

* ** A new feature in SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS will allow you to load partial .BIN files. As few as one byte up to the full file size is allowed. The syntax is:

* ** CAT "file name.BIN",location,number

HDOS V1 with SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS support any drive or memory configuration and also support any eprom version.

HDOS V1's individual file copy routine will copy ANY file, file type, or file length.

HDOS V1 does not support the .LRO or the .BUT extension.
(SPEC-DOS does not support the .ARO extension either)

PROGRAMMER'S NOTE: HDOS, SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS reside in the first four dock bank chunks, addresses 0000H to 7FFFH.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES: SPEC-DOS and TX-DOS disable the continuous scrolling of the screen that occurs with HDOS when doing a CATALOG. Further more, the drive motors are turned off immediately while you inspect the directory and it is alright to press the BREAK key, SPACE bar or the "N" key in order to stop the "Scroll?" request. The system has been designed so it will not crash when you want to exit to BASIC when scrolling a screen directory.

OTHER INFORMATION: To initialize SPEC-DOS or TX-DOS, do a
RANDOMIZE USR 49152.
